

for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Gary branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Like the national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Frances Boler, Edward Evens, Walter James, Floyd Mask, Gussie Mask, Mozella Stone, James Thomas, and Richard Williams, as well as the other members of the Gary NAACP, for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have utilized to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

#### HELP RESTORE AMERICA'S RIGHT TO WORK

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my colleagues a rare opportunity to be able to do what is right.

To stand up for the freedom of those who are forced to pay union dues against their will to keep their jobs, and at the same time to vote for legislation supported by nearly 80% of the American people. Congress created compulsory unionism with its power-grabbing National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act. Coercive unionism has a crippling effect on our nation's competitiveness, preventing hard-working Americans from being as productive as they know how to be, destroying businesses and the jobs they provide, or sending those good jobs overseas.

Now, Congress can fix its mistake and free working Americans from this forced dues tyranny. H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act, would end the forced payment of union dues or fees. Joining a labor union is a right and will remain so. But not joining a union should be a right as well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 59 and I urge the leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote.

#### ZEKE FORLINI RECEIVES PIO ZAPAZODI CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, Mr. Zeke Forlini, one of my constituents, on receiving the Pio Zapazodi Congressional Award, recognizing his dedication to the EMS and firefighting community.

As co-chairman of the Congressional Fire Caucus and a former firefighter and chief, I have witnessed first hand the dedication of

many men and women to the community. However, there are some unique individuals whose service is heads about the rest. To recognize those individuals, Delaware County has established the Pio Zapazodi Congressional Award, named after a longtime, dedicated leader in the fire community in Upper Darby and the entire county.

Zeke is a leader in the local fire community and an individual I consider to be a close friend. In the early nineties, he helped to develop the Emergency Services Training Center in Folcroft, Pennsylvania. Using his own equipment from his own concrete business, Zeke donated countless hours and resources to the construction of the training center. His efforts and assistance played an important role in the timely opening of the center which is an important resource to the fire and EMS community of Delaware County. In addition to his time and money, Zeke has offered his guidance to the project, giving direction to many smaller projects at the center.

Zeke has seen the training center project through from beginning to end, going so far as to supply the refreshments for the dedication of the building. And when the future of the building was questionable, Zeke arranged the pouring of 185 yards of solid concrete for the foundation.

Zeke continues to be active in the emergency services community, dedicating much of his personal time to the Board of Fire and Life Safety. Mr. Speaker, this man's commitment to his community is truly an example for our entire region. His considerable generosity and genuine interest in the welfare of our county is only matched by the many well-deserved friends he has accumulated over the years. It is a fitting tribute that the entrance to the Emergency Services Training Center has been named "Zeke's Way." With his continual gifts of time, guidance, and friendship, it is evident that Zeke Forlini has earned the Pio Zapazodi Congressional Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Zeke Forlini for his selfless dedication to the fire community.

#### MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE RELIEF ACT

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce the Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act. This legislation will provide a refundable tax credit to all military retirees and their spouses for Medicare Part B monthly premiums, and it will waive the ten percent penalty for late enrollment in Medicare.

As we head into this Fourth of July recess, let us not forget why we are blessed with freedom and democracy in this country. The sacrifices made by those who served in the military are something that must never be overlooked. Promises were made to those who served in the Uniformed Services. They were told that their health care would be taken care of for life if they served a minimum of 20 years of active federal service.

Well, those military retirees served their time and expected the government to hold up its end of the bargain. They are now realizing

that these were nothing more than empty promises.

Those who served in the military did not let their country down in its time of need and we should not let military retirees down in theirs. It's time military retirees get what was promised to them and that's why I am introducing this legislation.

#### LEARNING WITH LAPTOPS

### HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the academic year comes to a close across our country, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the "Learning With Laptops" program, which is conducted by the Beaufort County School District in South Carolina. This impressive program makes it possible for sixth and seventh grade students to combine learning and technology by using laptop computers for classwork and homework. The Beaufort County School District is the largest public school system in the United States to participate in this innovative partnership with Microsoft and Toshiba. The pilot program was initiated during the 1996-1997 academic year, in which 330 sixth grade students were provided with laptop computers. In the 1997-1998 academic year, the program expanded to involve 1,325 sixth and seventh grade students, and it is anticipated that when the schools open in Beaufort County for the 1998-1999 academic year, that more than 2,000 sixth and seventh graders will be using laptop computers in most of their classes.

The "Learning With Laptops" program is based on a public/private partnership. The SchoolBook Foundation, a nonprofit organization, was formed to lease and subsidize the laptop computers for students. Through subsidies, all students are able to participate in the program, regardless of their financial circumstances. In fact, the majority of students who are participating in the program qualify for free or reduced price lunches.

Through the "Learning With Laptops" program, an enthusiasm about exploring new areas inside and outside of the classroom has been created. I have visited a classroom of the H.E. McCracken Middle School, where students demonstrated their skills and ingenuity in using laptop computers, and I was impressed with their ability to utilize this technology so effectively. By integrating laptop computers into the learning process through this model program the Beaufort County School District is leading our Nation into a new dimension of educational achievement.

Earlier this month, the "Learning With Laptops" program was highlighted among our country's technology innovators at a special symposium that was sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. I would like to commend the Beaufort County School District on its efforts to put its motto of "Innovation Toward Excellence" into practice with such an outstanding program.